

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 01104 031314Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 /090 W  
-----069543 031321Z /42

O R 031210Z JUN 78 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7388  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1104

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH'S COMMENTS ON ELECTION POSSIBILITIES

REF: LUSAKA 1887,

1. THE RHODESIAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION HAS PROVIDED US A  
TRANSCRIPT OF IAN SMITH'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAPE TOWN  
ON MAY 26. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SMITH'S REPLY  
TO THE QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MEET  
THE DEADLINE FOR ELECTIONS:

QUOTE: WELL I THINK A LOT DOES DEPEND ON HOW WE GET ON  
WITH THE MACHINERY. I THINK IT WOULD BE WRONG OF ME  
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TO SAY TO YOU THAT AT ANY TIME I WAS CONFIDENT. WITH  
THE EVIDENCE OF THE EXPERTS, GOING RIGHT BACK TO  
GENEVA, WAS THAT IT WOULD TAKE LONGER THAN THE TIME  
NOW SET ASIDE AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABSOLUTELY  
HONEST AND STRAIGHT FORWARD ON THIS ASPECT. HOWEVER,  
WE HAVE NOW ACCEPTED THIS DATE AND I HAVE COMMITTED  
MYSELF TO DOING THE BEST I CAN IN ORDER TO COMPLY

WITH THIS DATE AND ALL OF OUR PEOPLE ARE WORKING  
FLAT OUT TO TRY TO ASSURE THAT WE CAN COMPLY WITH  
THIS DATE. BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN POSSIBILITIES OF  
"CORNER CUTTING" WHICH EVERYBODY IS INVESTIGATING.  
PROVIDING WE CAN DO THIS WITHOUT DAMAGING THE  
EFFICIENCY AND INTEGRITY (OF THE ELECTIONS) THIS IS  
WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO. ONE OR TWO VERY GOOD  
IDEAS HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD, DRAWN TO MY ATTENTION,  
AND PROVIDING EVERYBODY AGREES I WILL NOT STAND  
IN THE WAY AS THESE DO INDICATE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT  
OF TIME-SAVING. SO I WOULD SAY TO YOU THAT THERE  
IS A GOOD CHANCE OF US COMPLYING WITH THE DATE SET  
DOWN IN THE AGREEMENT AND THAT IS THE INTENTION OF  
ALL OF US CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE CIVIL SERVANTS  
WHO ARE DEALING WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK.  
UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SMITH AVOIDED A CATEGORICAL  
COMMITMENT THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD THIS YEAR,  
HIS STATEMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
AT THIS POINT DOES INTEND TO TRY TO HOLD ELECTIONS OF SOME SORT  
IN THE PROSCRIBED PERIOD. THE "CORNER CUTTING"  
METHOD TO WHICH SMITH REFERRED, IS PRESUMABLY  
AN ELECTION FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION BASED  
ON A NATIONAL LIST AS ANNOUNCED BY THE COUNCIL ON  
MAY 30 (PRETORIA 3109).  
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EDMONDSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAPET01104  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780232-1145  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 LUSAKA 1887  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2502221  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIA: SMITH'S COMMENTS ON ELECTION POSSIBILITIES  
**TAGS:** PDEV, SOPN, RH, SF, (SMITH, IAN)  
**To:** LUSAKA STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/684dbe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014